

### CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An axle assembly for a vehicle comprising;  
an axle shaft mounted for rotation within a housing;  
a hub fixed to a first end of said axle shaft; and  
a brake assembly mounted to said shaft and spaced a distance from said hub,  
such that said brake assembly is outside a wheel mountable to said hub.
2. The assembly of claim 1, wherein a portion of a wheel mountable to said hub extends a distance along an axis of rotation of said axle shaft and said distance from said hub is greater than said distance that said wheel extends along said axis of rotation.
3. The assembly of claim 1, wherein said axle shaft extends across the vehicle and includes a second hub.
4. The assembly of claim 2, wherein said brake assembly includes a rotor mounted to said axle shaft and a caliper actuated to selectively engage said rotor.
5. The assembly of claim 4, wherein said axle shaft includes a second end, and said rotor is mounted to said second end.
6. The assembly of claim 4, wherein said actuator is pneumatically operated.
7. The assembly of claim 4, wherein said actuator is hydraulically actuated.
8. The assembly of claim 1, including bearing assemblies disposed within said housing for supporting said shaft for rotation relative to said housing.

9. The assembly of claim 8, wherein said bearing assemblies include outer and inner races, said inner race rotates with said shaft.
10. The assembly of claim 1, including seals disposed between said housing and said shaft.
11. The assembly of claim 1, wherein said housing is mountable to a suspension arm.
12. The assembly of claim 11, wherein said suspension arm is pivotally mountable to a frame of a motor vehicle.

13. A brake assembly comprising;  
an axle shaft supported for rotation within an axle housing;  
a hub fixed to a first end of said axle shaft;  
a rotor fixed to a second end of said axle shaft; and  
brake pads supported within a caliper mounted to said housing and  
selectively engagable with said rotor.
14. The assembly of claim 13, further including a brake actuator to selectively  
engage said brake pads with said rotor.
15. The assembly of claim 13, including bearing assemblies disposed within  
said housing for supporting said shaft for rotation relative to said housing.
16. The assembly of claim 13, wherein said bearing assemblies include outer  
and inner races, said inner race rotates with said shaft.
17. The assembly of claim 13, including seals disposed between said housing  
and said shaft.
18. The assembly of claim 13, wherein said housing is mountable to a trailing  
arm pivotally attachable to a frame member on a first end and supported by a  
suspension member on a second end.